



Coast Guard HR Flag Voice 167

NEW COST-SAVING BENEFIT FOR TRICARE PRIME REMOTE ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBERS

On 1 Aug 2001, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) introduced the “Interim Waived Charges Benefit.” It’s a new cost-saving program for uniformed services active duty family members living with sponsors assigned to remote locations, 50 miles or a one-hour drive from a military treatment facility.

The Interim Waived Charges Benefit is retroactive to 30 Oct 2000. This means active duty family members can be reimbursed for the out-of pocket cost shares, copayments, or deductibles paid for covered medical care received from that date. This benefit will continue until the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Member (TPRADFM) program begins in 2002.

For reimbursement, active duty family members need not take any action. The regional managed care support contractors (MCSC) will review claims processed during the interim benefit period and issue reimbursement checks with an explanation of benefits (EOB) to family members due refunds.

There are some TRICARE Prime Remote locations where network providers are available and other locations where they are not. **Family members must utilize network providers when available to receive the waived charges benefit. In locations where network providers are not available, family members must use TRICARE authorized providers.** Family members should call their regional toll-free number or 1-877-DOD-CARE (1-877-363-2273) for assistance in finding network providers.

The new benefit does not cover costs associated with claims for medical care not covered by TRICARE, nor does it cover claims received from non-authorized providers. It also does not cover point-of-service charges, claims associated with the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPPWD), or pharmacy cost-shares since 1 April 2001.

The TPRADFM program will bring equity of the TRICARE Prime benefit to family members who live with their sponsors in remote locations, and reduce or eliminate out-of pocket costs for these family members. The Interim Waived Charges Benefit provides financial relief until TPRADFM is implemented.

“Previously, the only option available to family members living in some remote areas was to seek care with authorized civilian providers using the TRICARE Standard benefit,” said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, TRICARE Prime Remote regional operations officer, TMA.

“Consequently, sponsors with family members residing in remote locations paid more for health care than sponsors with family members living on or near military installations. The Interim Waive Charges Benefit reduces the medical costs associated with being assigned to a remote location.”

During the interim period, 1 Aug 2001, until the TPRADFM begins, enrollment of family members in TRICARE Prime is not required. However, after the TPRADFM program begins, the Interim Waived Charges Benefit will no longer apply. At that time, family members choosing to use TRICARE Standard, and not to enroll in TRICARE Prime, will again be responsible for the TRICARE Standard deductibles and cost shares.

Up-to-date information on the Interim Waived Charges Benefit and the TRICARE Prime Remote benefit for active duty uniformed services members and their families is available on the TRICARE Prime Remote Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/remote. Sponsors and family members can also call 1-877-DOD-CARE (1-877-363-2273), toll free for additional information or to verify their eligibility.

Regards, FL Ames

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"How can I motivate 12 NBA players to forget their personal agendas, disregard injuries and perform as a team? To me, the only motivation that brings maximum production, whether it's with a pro basketball team or a Fortune 500 corporation, must come from the group itself. My job, then, comes down to creating a sense of community, an environment in which everyone feels valued and attached. That does the motivating..."

Phil Jackson, NBA Coach, from the book [More than a Game](#)